

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

103RD MEETING

Panama City, Panama

1-5 September 2025

PROPOSAL IATTC-103 P-1

**SUBMITTED BY COSTA RICA, BELIZE, EL SALVADOR,
GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA AND PANAMA**

**RULES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR
THE PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) WITH OBSERVER STATUS AT
MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS SUBSIDIARY
BODIES**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In accordance with paragraph 2 of Article XVI of the Antigua Convention, regarding the principle of transparency, the Commission is entitled to adopt rules for the participation of non-governmental organizations, within the framework of Annex 2 of the Convention. Paragraph 10 of the Annex establishes that the Director may require observers to pay reasonable fees and to cover costs attributable to their attendance at meetings.

The Commission has long maintained a policy of requiring NGOs to contribute US\$500 per meeting of the Commission, and this has been understood to include entire cycles of meetings that may take place on one or more consecutive days and even up to two weeks, which is neither reasonable nor proportionate, given that the space provided at the meetings for representatives of these organizations has a relative cost, since logistics are generally arranged according to the number of participants.

This proposal does not seek to discourage NGO participation, but rather to regulate their contributions so that, for financial reasons, they can be guaranteed the space they require. Therefore, it establishes an interim payment mechanism and allows for the development of an appropriate adjustment method when necessary.

Additionally, this proposal aims to align the IATTC's internal practices with the principles of good governance and responsible financial management. By implementing a flexible contribution structure based on actual costs, the Commission fulfills its transparency and effective participation mandates while fostering stronger, more sustainable collaboration with civil society. This will enable the IATTC to optimize its resource allocation and strengthen its work under the Antigua Convention.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered in Panama City, Panama, on the occasion of its 103rd meeting:

Taking into account the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article XVI of the Antigua Convention, which states that the Commission shall promote transparency in its decision-making, including, among others, ensuring opportunities for interacting with non-governmental organizations of civil society;

Recognizing that meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, where documents are reviewed and interests relevant to decision-making are discussed, are based on the best scientific information available;

Bearing in mind that paragraph 10 of Annex 2 of the Antigua Convention empowers the Director to require non-Party and NGO observers to pay reasonable fees, and to cover costs attributable to their attendance;

Aware of the various formats in which the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies have been held, whose costs and logistics differ depending on the requirements of the place, time, and space where they take place;

Seeking to facilitate mechanisms that provide a dynamic criterion for calculating reasonable fees to be charged to observers;

Bearing in mind that the current fee has not been changed for more than ten years, while the costs of organizing and holding meetings have increased significantly;

Seeking to align practices with the principles of good governance and responsible financial management by establishing a more flexible contribution structure based on cost dynamics.

Agrees,

1. To define the base amount to be charged to non-governmental organizations for participation as observers in each meeting of the Commission, group, or subsidiary body, in the amount of one thousand five hundred US dollars when up to three representatives attend. For each additional two representatives, the fee shall be increased by seven hundred and fifty US dollars.
2. The fee shall be one thousand US dollars for the first three representatives and two hundred and fifty US dollars for each additional representative in the case of fishermen's organizations from developing coastal countries that are Members of the IATTC, which shall be accredited by providing a statement in the application and a copy of their statutes.
3. The Director may exempt the organizations referred to in the preceding paragraph from payment if they represent coastal or small-scale fishermen who can prove their status and demonstrate that they have a plan in place for responsible fisheries management among their members, in line with IATTC management measures and knowledge.
4. Non-governmental organizations that make voluntary cash contributions to the Commission's general budget of at least forty thousand dollars shall be exempt from paying for up to three seats for their representatives as observers during the fiscal year in which the contribution was made.
5. In 2026 and every two years thereafter, the Committee on Administration and Finance shall evaluate this provision and may recommend modifications based on a dynamic model using cost variables and incentives for non-governmental organizations to contribute to scientific work, including through projects related to the analysis of indicators of the socioeconomic impact of fisheries management measures.